

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION INC  
Form S-3ASR  
May 10, 2011

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 10, 2011  
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933  
American Public Education, Inc.  
*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Delaware**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**01-0724376**  
*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)*

**111 West Congress Street  
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414  
(304) 724-3700**  
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Harry T. Wilkins  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
American Public Education, Inc.  
111 West Congress Street  
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414  
(304) 724-3700**  
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)*

*with copies to:*  
**William I. Intner  
Michael J. Silver  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
100 International Drive, Suite 2000**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
(410) 659-2700**

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time on or after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered</b>	<b>Amount to be Registered(1)(2)</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Share(1)(2)</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)</b>	<b>Amount of Registration Fee(3)</b>
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share(2)				
Debt Securities(2)				
Preferred Stock(2)				
Convertible Debt Securities(2)				
Warrants(2)				
Units(4)				
<b>Total</b>				

- (1) Not applicable pursuant to Form S-3 General Instruction II.E.
  - (2) An indeterminate number or amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be issued or sold at currently indeterminable prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, repurchase, exchange or exercise of any of the securities registered hereunder, in accordance with Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r). Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units. Securities registered hereby may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.
  - (3) In accordance with Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
  - (4) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in any combination of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, or warrants, which may or may not be separable from one another.
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## PROSPECTUS

**Common Stock  
Debt Securities  
Preferred Stock  
Warrants  
Units**

We may, from time to time, offer, issue and sell senior or subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants to purchase our debt securities, preferred stock or common stock, as well as units that include any of these securities. The debt securities, preferred stock and warrants we may offer may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our debt securities, preferred stock, common stock or other securities or the debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. We refer to our senior or subordinated debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, warrants and units collectively as the securities. We may offer the securities separately or together, in separate series or classes and in amounts, at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. In addition, this prospectus may be used to offer securities for the account of persons other than us.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to the securities we or any selling securityholders may offer and sell and the general manner in which they may be offered. Each time we or any selling securityholders offer securities pursuant to this prospectus, we or any selling securityholders will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus or free writing prospectuses that contain specific information about the offering and the terms of any securities being sold. Before investing, you should carefully read this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. Prospectus supplements or free writing prospectuses may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

We or any selling securityholder may offer and sell these securities to or through agents, underwriters, dealers or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The names of any agents, underwriters or dealers and the terms of the arrangements with such entities will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol APEI.

**You should read carefully this prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest. Investing in our securities involves risks. Please see Risk Factors on page 2 for more information.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The date of this prospectus is May 10, 2011



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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we or any selling securityholder may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings from time to time. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or any selling securityholder may offer. Each time we or any selling securityholder sell securities pursuant to this prospectus, we or such selling securityholder will provide a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Therefore, if there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the headings Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference, and any free writing prospectus that we may prepare and distribute.

Neither we nor any selling securityholder have authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any accompanying supplement to this prospectus or any free writing prospectus that may be incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus. Neither this prospectus nor any accompanying prospectus supplement nor any free writing prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus or any other offering materials is accurate on

any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of such document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

Unless the context otherwise requires or as otherwise expressly stated, references in this prospectus to American Public Education, the Company, we, us and our and similar terms refer to American Public Education, Inc. and our subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, as appropriate in the context.

## PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

*This summary contains a general summary of the information contained in this prospectus. It may not include all the information that is important to you. You should read the entire prospectus, the prospectus supplement delivered with the prospectus, if any, and the documents incorporated by reference before making an investment decision.*

### Company Overview

American Public Education, Inc. is a provider of exclusively online postsecondary education with an emphasis on serving the needs of the military and public service communities. We operate through two universities, American Military University, or AMU, and American Public University, or APU, which together constitute the American Public University System. Our universities share a common faculty and curriculum, which includes 79 degree programs and 65 certificate programs in disciplines related to national security, military studies, intelligence, homeland security, criminal justice, technology, business administration, education, nursing and liberal arts. We currently serve over 83,700 students living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in the United States. Our university system is regionally and nationally accredited.

From 2008 to 2010, our total revenue increased from \$107.1 million to \$198.2 million, which represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 36%. Our net course registrations increased 41% and 31% in 2009 and 2010, respectively, over the prior periods. We believe our growth is attributable to: (i) high student satisfaction and referral rates; (ii) regional accreditation; (iii) increasing acceptance of distance learning within our targeted markets; and (iv) variety and affordability of our programs. As our revenue base grows, we expect our growth rate percentages to continue to decline. However, we expect actual dollar revenue growth to increase. Net income improved to \$29.9 million in 2010 from net income of \$16.2 million in 2008.

Approximately 62% of our students serve in the United States military on active duty. The remainder of our students are generally civilians with careers in public service, such as federal, national and local law enforcement personnel or other first responders, or they are civilians who are military-affiliated professionals, such as veterans, reservists or National Guard members. Our programs are generally designed to help these and other students advance in their current professions or prepare for their next career. Our online method of instruction is well-suited to our students, many of whom serve in positions requiring extended and irregular schedules, are on-call for rapid response missions, participate in extended deployments and exercises, travel or relocate frequently and have limited financial resources. Our satisfied students have been a significant source of referrals for us, which we believe has led to lower marketing costs among certain of our student populations.

As of December 31, 2010, we had approximately 250 full-time and over 1,250 adjunct faculty. Nearly all of our faculty members have advanced degrees and many of them have leadership experience in their fields. Our adjunct faculty also includes professors who teach at leading national and state universities. We believe quality faculty members are attracted to us because of the high percentage of military and public service professionals in our student body who can immediately apply lessons learned in our classroom to their daily work. In addition, our faculty members are attracted to the flexible nature of teaching online and the numerous support services we provide them. Our faculty is organized into several departments under the leadership of a Provost who reports to our President and under the supervision of a nine-member university Board of Trustees.

The address of our principal executive office is 111 West Congress Street, Charles Town, West Virginia 25414 and our telephone number is (304) 724-3700. Our internet website is [www.americanpubliceducation.com](http://www.americanpubliceducation.com). We make our electronic filings with the SEC, including our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports available on our website free of charge as soon as



practicable after we file or furnish them with the SEC. Information on our website is not a part of, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus.

## **RISK FACTORS**

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider and evaluate all of the information contained in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement and in the documents we incorporate by reference in this prospectus before you decide to purchase our securities. In particular, you should carefully consider and evaluate the risks and uncertainties described in Part I Item 1A. Risk Factors of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, as updated by the additional risks and uncertainties set forth in other filings we make with the SEC or any accompanying prospectus supplement. Any of the risks and uncertainties set forth therein could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition, which in turn could materially and adversely affect the trading price or value of our securities. As a result, you could lose all or part of your investment.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are currently subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) and in accordance therewith file periodic reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy (at prescribed rates) any such reports, proxy statements and other information at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. Our SEC filings will also be available to you on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and in the Investors section of our website at [www.americanpubliceducation.com](http://www.americanpubliceducation.com). Our website and the information contained on that site, or connected to that site, are not incorporated into and are not a part of this prospectus.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 with respect to the securities offered hereby. This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement, parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information with respect to us and the securities offered hereby, reference is made to the registration statement.

## **INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We incorporate information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except to the extent superseded by information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below, the file number for each of which is 001-33810, that have been previously filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the SEC on February 18, 2011;

our Current Report on Form 8-K (reporting under items 5.02 and 5.07) filed with the SEC on May 10, 2011;

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2011, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2011; and

the description of our common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act on November 7, 2007 (Registration No. 001-33810), including any amendments or reports filed to update such information.

In addition, all documents that we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering of our securities shall be deemed incorporated by reference into this prospectus and to be a part of this prospectus from the respective dates of filing such documents. Unless specifically stated to the contrary, none of the information that we disclose under Items 2.02 or 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K that we may from time to time furnish to the SEC will be incorporated by reference into, or otherwise included in, this prospectus.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may obtain copies of any of these filings by contacting us at the address and telephone number indicated below or by contacting the SEC as described above under the section entitled **Where You Can Find More Information**. Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding all exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus, by requesting them in writing or by telephone at:

American Public Education, Inc.  
111 West Congress Street  
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414  
Attention: Corporate Secretary  
(703) 334-3880

#### **SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus contains or incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. We may, in some cases, use words such as **project, believe, anticipate, plan, expect, estimate, intend, should, would, could, potentially, will** or **may** to convey uncertainty of future events or outcomes to identify these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus include statements about:

our ability to comply with the extensive regulatory framework applicable to our industry, including Title IV of the Higher Education Act and the regulations thereunder, state laws and regulatory requirements, and accrediting agency requirements;

the pace of growth of our enrollment;

our conversion of prospective students to enrolled students and our retention of active students;

our ability to update and expand the content of existing programs and the development of new programs in a cost-effective manner or on a timely basis;

our maintenance and expansion of our relationships with the United States Armed Forces and various organizations and the development of new relationships;

the competitive environment in which we operate;

our cash needs and expectations regarding cash flow from operations;

our ability to manage and grow our business and execution of our business and growth strategies; and

our financial performance generally.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements. Each forward-looking statement contained in this prospectus reflects management's view only as of the date on which that forward-looking statement was made. There are a number of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the results anticipated by these forward-looking statements. These important factors include those that we discuss in Part I Item 1A. Risk Factors and Part II Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K as updated by the additional risks and uncertainties set forth in other filings we make with the SEC or any accompanying prospectus supplement. You should read these factors and the other cautionary

statements made in this prospectus as being applicable to all related forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this prospectus. If one or more of these factors materialize, or if any underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results, performance or achievements may vary materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements after the date of this prospectus, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

### USE OF PROCEEDS

Any accompanying prospectus supplement will set forth our intended use of the net proceeds from the sale of our securities offered by us, which could include, among other uses, general corporate purposes.

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we will not receive any proceeds in the event that securities are sold by a selling securityholder.

### RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The table below presents the ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the last five fiscal years and the three-month period ended March 31, 2011.

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31</b>			
			<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	N/A(1)	N/A(1)	N/A(1)	N/A(1)	262.3	70.0

(1) For the three months ended March 31, 2011 and the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, we had no fixed charges.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings is defined as pre-tax income from continuing operations, plus fixed charges, plus amortization of capital interest, plus distributed equity of equity investees, plus share of pre-tax losses of equity investees, less interest capitalized, less preference security dividends, less non-controlling interest in pre-tax subsidiaries. Fixed charges include interest expense, amortized premiums related to premiums associated with indebtedness, interest within rental expense, and preference security dividends.

This information should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

## DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock and provisions of our fifth amended and restated certificate of incorporation, which we refer to as our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, and our second amended and restated bylaws, which we refer to as our amended and restated bylaws, are summaries and are qualified by reference to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated bylaws that are filed as exhibits to the registration statement that includes this prospectus. The General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL") may also affect the terms of our common stock.

### Authorized and Outstanding Common Stock

We are authorized to issue up to 100,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of March 31, 2011, there were 17,932,616 shares of our common stock outstanding.

### Listing

Our common stock is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "APEI".

### Dividends

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive, on a pro rata basis, dividends and distributions, if any, that the board of directors may declare out of legally available funds, subject to any preferential rights of holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Any dividends declared on the common stock will not be cumulative.

### Fully Paid and Non-Assessable

All shares of our outstanding common stock are fully paid and are not subject to future calls or assessments by us.

### Voting Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to cast one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders and do not have cumulative voting rights. Except as otherwise required by law, holders of our common stock are not entitled to vote on any amendment or certificate of designation relating to the terms of any series of preferred stock if the holders of the affected series are entitled to vote on such amendment or certificate of designation under the amended and restated certificate of incorporation.

### Liquidation Rights

Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in any assets remaining after the payment of all debt and other liabilities, subject to the prior rights, if any, of holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock.

### Other Rights and Restrictions

The holders of our common stock do not have any preemptive, subscription, conversion, redemption or sinking fund rights. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of our common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of any series of preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

**Anti-Takeover Provisions**

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult to complete an acquisition of American Public Education by means of a tender offer, a proxy contest or otherwise.



*Maximum Number of Directors.* Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation does not limit the maximum size of our board of directors.

*Special Stockholder Meetings.* Our amended and restated bylaws provide that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by a resolution adopted by a majority of our board of directors.

*No Stockholder Action by Written Consent.* Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that, subject to the rights of any holders of preferred stock to act by written consent instead of a meeting, stockholder action may be taken only at an annual meeting or special meeting of stockholders and may not be taken by written consent instead of a meeting, unless the action to be taken by written consent of stockholders and the taking of this action by written consent has been expressly approved in advance by the board of directors. Failure to satisfy any of the requirements for a stockholder meeting could delay, prevent or invalidate stockholder action.

*Stockholder Advance Notice Procedure.* Our amended and restated bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for stockholders to make nominations of candidates for election as directors or to bring other business before an annual meeting of our stockholders. The amended and restated bylaws provide that any stockholder wishing to nominate persons for election as directors at, or bring other business before, an annual meeting must deliver to our secretary a written notice of the stockholder's intention to do so. To be timely, the stockholder's notice must be delivered to or mailed and received by us not less than 90 days before the anniversary date of the preceding annual meeting, except that if the annual meeting is set for a date that is not within 30 days before or 60 days after such anniversary date, we must receive the notice not later than the close of business on the tenth day following the day on which we provide the notice or public disclosure of the date of the meeting. The notice must include the following information:

the name and address of the stockholder who intends to make the nomination and the name and address of the person or persons to be nominated or the nature of the business to be proposed;

a representation that the stockholder is a holder of record of our capital stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons or to introduce the business specified in the notice;

if applicable, a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and each nominee and any other person or persons, naming such person or persons, pursuant to which the nomination is to be made by the stockholder;

such other information regarding each nominee or each matter of business to be proposed by such stockholder as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed under the SEC's proxy rules if the nominee had been nominated, or intended to be nominated, or the matter had been proposed, or intended to be proposed, by the board of directors;

if applicable, the consent of each nominee to serve as a director if elected; and

such other information that the board of directors may request in its discretion.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description sets forth certain general provisions of the debt securities that may be offered by means of this prospectus. The particular terms of the debt securities being offered and the extent to which the general provisions described below apply will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the debt securities.

Any senior debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be issued under a senior debt securities indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time, which we refer to as the Senior Debt Securities Indenture, between the Company and such trustee as may be appointed by the Company. Any subordinated debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be issued under a separate subordinated debt securities indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time, which we refer to as the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture, between the Company and such trustee as may be appointed by the Company. The Senior Debt Securities Indenture and the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture are referred to in this prospectus individually as the Indenture and collectively as the Indentures. A form of the Senior Debt Securities Indenture and a form of the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture have been filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part and will be available for inspection at the corporate trust office of the trustee or as described above under Where to Find Additional Information.

The Indentures are and will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The description of the Indentures set forth below assumes that the Company has entered into both of the Indentures. The Company will execute and deliver one or both of the Indentures when and if it issues debt securities. The statements made in this prospectus relating to the Indentures and the debt securities to be issued under the Indentures are summaries of some provisions of the Indentures and such debt securities. The summaries do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all provisions of the Indentures and such debt securities. Unless otherwise specified, capitalized terms used but not defined in this prospectus have the meanings set forth in the Indentures.

### General

The debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be direct obligations of the Company. Senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with other senior and unsubordinated debt of the Company that may be outstanding from time to time, and will rank senior in right of payment to all subordinated debt securities of the Company that may be outstanding from time to time. Subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the senior debt of the Company, as described under Subordination below.

Each Indenture provides that debt securities may be issued without limit as to aggregate principal amount, in one or more series, in each case as established from time to time in or pursuant to authority granted by one or more resolutions of the board of directors of the Company or as established in one or more indentures supplemental to the Indenture. All debt securities of one series need not be issued at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, a series may be reopened, without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series, for issuances of additional debt securities of such series.

Each Indenture provides that there may be more than one trustee thereunder, each with respect to one or more series of debt securities. Any trustee under either Indenture may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of debt securities, and a successor trustee will be appointed by the Company, by or pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of directors, to act with respect to such series. If two or more persons are acting as trustee with respect to different series of debt securities, each such trustee will be a trustee of a trust under the applicable Indenture separate

and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee thereunder, and, except as otherwise indicated herein or therein, any action described to be taken by the trustee may be taken by each such trustee with respect to, and only with respect to, the one or more series of debt securities for which it is trustee under the Indenture.

The supplement to this prospectus relating to the series of debt securities being offered will contain information on the specific terms of such debt securities, including:

- (1) the title of such series of debt securities;
- (2) the classification of such debt securities as senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities;
- (3) the aggregate principal amount of such debt securities and any limit on such aggregate principal amount;
- (4) the percentage of the principal amount of such debt securities that will be issued and, if other than the entire principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount thereof payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof or, if applicable, the portion of the principal amount thereof that is convertible in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Indenture, or the method by which such portion shall be determined;
- (5) the terms and conditions, if any, upon which such debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of the Company or securities of another person and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange will be effected, including, without limitation, whether such debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other capital stock of the Company or such other person, the initial conversion price or rate (or manner of calculation thereof), the portion that is convertible or exchangeable or the method by which any such portion shall be determined, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion or exchange will be at the option of the holders, the Company, or such other person the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion or exchange price and provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of the redemption of such debt securities;
- (6) the date or dates, or the method for determining such date or dates, on which the principal of such debt securities will be payable;
- (7) the rate or rates, or the method by which such rate or rates shall be determined, at which such debt securities will bear interest, if any;
- (8) the date or dates, or the method for determining such date or dates, from which any such interest will accrue, the date or dates on which any such interest will be payable, the regular record dates for the interest payment dates, or the method by which the regular record dates are to be determined, the person to whom such interest will be payable, and the basis upon which interest shall be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;
- (9) the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest and any additional amounts related to specified taxes imposed on the holders of such debt securities, or Additional Amounts, on such debt securities will be payable, where such debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or registration of transfer or exchange, and where notices or demands to or upon the Company in respect of such debt securities and the applicable Indenture may be served;
- (10) the date or dates on which, or period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency in which, and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company, if the Company is to have such an option;
- (11) the obligation, if any, of the Company to redeem, repay or purchase such debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provision or at the option of a holder thereof, and the date or dates on which, or period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currencies in which, and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be redeemed, repaid or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such

obligation;

(12) if other than U.S. dollars, the foreign currency or currencies in which such debt securities are denominated and payable, which may be a foreign currency or units of two or more foreign currencies or a composite currency or currencies, and the terms and conditions relating thereto;

(13) whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which index, formula or method may, but need not be, based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices) and the manner in which such amounts shall be determined;

(14) whether such debt securities will be secured or unsecured and if secured, the nature of the collateral securing the debt securities;

(15) whether such debt securities will be issued in the form of one or more global securities and whether such global securities are to be issuable in a temporary global form or permanent global form;

(16) any deletions from, modifications of or addition to the events of default or covenants of the Company with respect to such debt securities, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with the events of default or covenants set forth in the applicable Indenture;

(17) whether the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest or Additional Amounts, if any, on such debt securities are to be payable, at the election of the Company or a holder, in one or more currencies other than that in which such debt securities are payable in the absence of the making of such an election, the date or dates on which, or period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made, and the time and manner of, and identity of the exchange rate agent with responsibility for, determining the exchange rate between the currency or currencies in which such debt securities are payable in the absence of the making of such an election and the currency or currencies in which such debt securities are to be payable upon the making of such an election;

(18) whether such debt securities will be issued in certificated or book-entry form and if in certificated form, the form and/or terms of the certificates or other documents and the other conditions to be satisfied;

(19) whether such debt securities will be in registered or bearer form, or both, the terms, if any, on which securities in registered form and in bearer form may be exchanged for each other, and, if in registered form, the denominations thereof if other than \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof and, if in bearer form, the denominations thereof if other than \$5,000 and terms and conditions relating thereto;

(20) the applicability, if any, of the defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the applicable Indenture, and any provisions in modification of, in addition to or in lieu of such provisions;

(21) if such debt securities are to be issued upon the exercise of warrants, the time, manner and place for such debt securities to be authenticated and delivered;

(22) whether and to what extent such debt securities will be guaranteed by a guarantor and the identity of such guarantor;

(23) provisions, if any, granting special rights to the holders of such debt securities upon the occurrence of such events as may be specified;

(24) whether and under what circumstances the Company will pay Additional Amounts as contemplated in the applicable Indenture on such debt securities to any holder thereof who is not a U.S. person and, if so, whether the Company will have the option to redeem such debt securities in lieu of making such payment and the terms of any such option;

- (25) the name of the applicable trustee and the address of its corporate trust office and, if other than the trustee, the name of each security registrar and paying agent;
- (26) the date as of which any debt securities in bearer form and any temporary global security shall be dated if other than the date of original issuance; and
- (27) any other terms of such debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the applicable Indenture.

Debt securities offered by means of this prospectus may be original issue discount securities, in that they provide for less than the entire principal amount thereof to be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof. If they are original issue discount securities, the special U.S. federal income tax, accounting and other considerations applicable to such securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither Indenture contains any other provisions that would limit the ability of the Company to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving the Company or in the event of a change of control of the Company.

The rights of the Company and its creditors, including holders of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus, to participate in the assets of the Company's subsidiaries upon the liquidation or recapitalization of such subsidiaries or otherwise will be subject to the prior claims of such subsidiaries' respective secured and unsecured creditors (except to the extent that claims of the Company itself as a creditor may be recognized).

### **Denominations, Interest, Registration and Transfer**

Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus in registered form will be issuable in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof and in bearer form will be issuable in denominations of \$5,000, except that securities issued in global form may be of any denomination.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest and any Additional Amounts on any series of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be payable at the office or agency designated by the Company in accordance with the Indenture. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on any such series of debt securities to the holders thereof on any regular record date will be made (1) to each person entitled thereto having an aggregate principal amount of debt securities of \$1,000,000 or less, by check mailed to the address of such person as it appears in the security register and (2) to each person entitled thereto having an aggregate principal amount of debt securities of more than \$1,000,000, either by check mailed to such person or, upon application by any such person to the security registrar not later than the applicable record date, by wire transfer in immediately available funds to such person's account within the United States. Such an application will remain in effect until such person notifies the security registrar in writing to the contrary. In the case of any securities issued in bearer form, payment of interest may be made, at the Company's option, by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located outside the United States.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest and any Additional Amounts on any debt securities in global form registered in the name of or held by The Depository Trust Company, or DTC, or its nominee will be payable to DTC or its nominee as the registered holder thereof.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, any interest not punctually paid or duly provided for on any interest payment date with respect to a debt security offered by means of this prospectus, or Defaulted Interest, will forthwith cease to be payable to the holder on the applicable regular record date and may either be paid to the person in whose name such debt security is registered at the close of business on a special record date, which we refer to as the Special Record Date, for the payment of such Defaulted Interest to be fixed by the applicable trustee, with notice thereof to be given to the holder of such debt security not less than 10 days prior to such Special Record Date, or may be paid at any time in any other lawful manner, all as more completely described in the applicable Indenture.

Subject to certain limitations imposed upon debt securities issued in book-entry form, the debt securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus will be exchangeable for other debt securities in registered form of the same series



and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor of any authorized denominations upon surrender of such debt securities at the corporate trust office of the applicable trustee or at an office or agency established by the Company in accordance with the Indenture. In addition, subject to certain limitations

imposed upon debt securities issued in book-entry form, the debt securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus may be surrendered for registration of transfer thereof at the corporate trust office of the trustee or other office or agency referred to above. Every debt security surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange shall be duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer. No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of any debt securities (other than specified exchanges not involving a transfer), but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith. If the applicable prospectus supplement refers to any transfer agent (in addition to the trustee) initially designated by the Company with respect to any series of debt securities, the Company at any time may rescind the designation of any such transfer agent or approve a change in the location through which any such transfer agent acts, except that the Company will be required to maintain a transfer agent in each place of payment for such series. the Company at any time may designate additional transfer agents with respect to any series of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus.

The Company may change the paying agent or security registrar under either Indenture without prior notice to the holders of the series of debt securities outstanding thereunder, and also may act as the paying agent and security registrar for such series.

Neither the Company nor the trustee for any series of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus will be required to:

issue, register the transfer of or exchange debt securities of any series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing of the relevant notice of redemption (or, in the case of bearer securities, the date of first publication of such notice);

register the transfer of or exchange any debt security, or portion thereof, called for redemption, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part;

exchange debt securities in bearer form selected for redemption except for an exchange for any debt security that is registered in the security register of that series and of like tenor; or

issue, register the transfer of or exchange any debt security which has been surrendered for repayment at the option of the holder, except the portion, if any, of such debt security not to be so repaid.

## **Covenants**

*Existence.* Except as described under Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets below, the Company and each guarantor, if any, of the debt securities is required to do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect its corporate existence, rights and franchises, except that (a) neither the Company nor any such guarantor is obligated to preserve any right or franchise and (b) none of the guarantors is obligated to preserve its existence, in either case if the Company determines that the preservation thereof is no longer desirable in the conduct of its business and that the loss thereof is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the holders of the debt securities issued under the Indenture.

*Maintenance of Properties.* The Company will cause, and will cause each of its subsidiaries to cause, all of its material properties used or useful in the conduct of its business or the business of any subsidiary to be maintained and kept in good condition, repair and working order and supplied with all necessary equipment and will cause to be made all necessary repairs, renewals, replacements, betterments and improvements thereof, all as in the judgment of the Company may be necessary so that the business carried on in connection therewith may be properly and

advantageously conducted at all times, except that the Company and any subsidiary may discontinue the operation and maintenance of any such properties if it determines that the discontinuance thereof is no longer desirable in the conduct of its business and is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the holders of the debt securities issued under the Indenture.

*Payment of Taxes and Other Claims.* The Company will pay or discharge or cause to be paid or discharged, before the same shall become delinquent, (1) all material taxes, assessments and governmental charges levied or imposed upon it or any subsidiary or upon the income, profits or property of the Company

or any subsidiary, and (2) all material lawful claims for labor, materials and supplies which, if unpaid, might by law become a lien upon the property of the Company or any subsidiary, unless such lien would not have a material adverse effect upon such property, except that the Company will not be required to pay or discharge or cause to be paid or discharged any such tax, assessment, charge or claim (a) whose amount, applicability or validity is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings or (b) for which the Company has set apart and maintains an adequate reserve.

*Delivery of SEC and Other Reports to the Trustee.* The Company will ensure delivery to the trustee within 15 calendar days after it files annual and quarterly reports, information, documents and other reports with the SEC, copies of such reports and information, documents and other reports which the Company is required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. If the Company at any time is no longer subject to the reporting requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, it will continue to provide the trustee with reports containing substantially the same information as the Company would have been required to file with the SEC if the Company had continued to have been subject to such reporting requirements. In such event, the Company will provide the trustee with such reports at the times at which the Company would have been required to provide the reports if it had continued to have been subject to such reporting requirements.

*Additional Covenants.* Any additional material covenants of the Company contained in an Indenture for a series of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus, or any deletions from or modifications of the covenants described above, will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

### **Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets**

Each Indenture provides that the Company shall not consolidate with or merge with or into, or convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of its properties and assets (as an entirety or substantially as an entirety in one transaction or a series of related transactions) to, another person, unless (1) the resulting, surviving or transferee person (if not the Company) is a person organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, and such entity (if not the Company) expressly assumes by supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the trustee in form reasonably satisfactory to the trustee, all of the obligations of the Company under the applicable series of debt securities and such Indenture and (2) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default has occurred and is continuing under such Indenture. Upon any such consolidation, merger or transfer, the resulting, surviving or transferee person shall succeed to, and shall be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under the applicable Indenture.

### **Events of Default, Notice and Waiver**

Each Indenture provides that the following events are Events of Default with respect to any series of debt securities issued thereunder:

- (1) default in any payment of interest on, or any Additional Amounts payable in respect of, any debt security of such series when due and payable, which default continues for a specified period of days after the date when due and payable;
- (2) default in the payment of the principal amount of (or premium, if any, on) any debt security of such series when due and payable at its stated maturity, upon required repurchase, upon declaration or otherwise;
- (3) failure by the Company to comply with its obligations under Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets ;
- (4) failure by the Company for a specified period of days after written notice from the trustee or the holders of a specified amount in principal amount of such series of debt securities then outstanding has been received by the

Company to comply with any of its other agreements contained in the applicable Indenture; and

(5) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization relating to the Company or any Significant Subsidiary of the Company or any guarantor of any debt security of such series.

The term Significant Subsidiary means each significant subsidiary of the Company as defined in Regulation S-X promulgated under the Securities Act.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities may contain information relating to deletions from, modifications of or additions to this list of events of default.

If an Event of Default under either Indenture with respect to debt securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus at the time outstanding, other than an Event of Default specified in clause (5) above, occurs and is continuing, then in every such case the trustee or the holders of not less than a specified amount in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the principal amount (or, if the debt securities of that series are original issue discount securities or indexed securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms thereof) of all of the outstanding debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately by written notice thereof to the Company (and to the applicable trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal or specified portion thereof shall become immediately due and payable. If an Event of Default specified in clause (5) above occurs, all unpaid principal of and accrued interest on the outstanding debt securities of that series (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of such series) shall ipso facto become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of any debt security of that series.

At any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to debt securities of the applicable series has been made, but before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the applicable trustee, the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of such series may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if (1) the Company shall have paid or deposited with the applicable trustee all required payments of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, and any Additional Amounts, on the debt securities of such series, plus certain fees, expenses, disbursements and advances of the trustee and (2) all Events of Default, other than the non-payment of principal (or premium, if any) or interest on debt securities of such series, have been cured or waived as provided in the applicable Indenture. Each Indenture also provides that the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may waive any past default with respect to such series and its consequences, except a default (a) in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest or any Additional Amounts on any debt security of such series, (b) in the conversion or exchange of the debt securities in accordance with their terms or (c) in respect of a covenant or provision contained in the applicable Indenture that may not be modified or amended without the consent of the holders of all outstanding debt securities affected thereby.

Each trustee is required to give notice to the holders of debt securities within 90 days after a default under the applicable Indenture, except that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of any series of debt securities of any default with respect to such series (except a default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest or any Additional Amounts on any debt security of such series or in the payment of any sinking fund installment in respect of any debt security of such series) if specified responsible officers of the trustee consider in good faith such withholding to be in the interest of such holders.

Each Indenture provides that no holders of debt securities of any series offered by means of this prospectus may institute any proceedings, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the applicable Indenture or for any remedy thereunder, except in the case of failure of the trustee thereunder, for a specified period of days, to act after it has received a written request to institute proceedings in respect of an Event of Default from the holders of not less than a specified amount in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series (and no direction inconsistent with such

written request has been given to the trustee by holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series), as well as an offer of indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it. This provision, however, will not prevent any holder of such debt securities from instituting suit for the enforcement of payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on, and

any Additional Amounts payable with respect to, such debt securities at the respective due dates thereof or for the enforcement of any conversion right in such debt securities.

Subject to provisions in each Indenture relating to its duties in case of default, each trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable Indenture at the request or direction of any holders of any series of debt securities offered by means of this prospectus then outstanding under such Indenture, unless such holders shall have offered to the applicable trustee reasonable security or indemnity satisfactory to the trustee. The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the applicable outstanding debt securities of any series shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or of exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee. The trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction which is in conflict with any law or the applicable Indenture, which may involve the trustee in personal liability or which may be unduly prejudicial to the holders of debt securities of such series not joining in such direction.

Within 120 days after the close of each fiscal year, the Company and each guarantor, if any, of any series of debt securities offered by means of a prospectus supplement must deliver to each trustee a certificate, signed by one of several specified officers, as to such officer's knowledge of its compliance with all conditions and covenants of the applicable Indenture and, in the event of any noncompliance, specifying such noncompliance and the nature and status thereof.

### **Modification of the Indentures**

Subject to specified exceptions, each Indenture and any series of debt securities outstanding under such Indenture may be amended by a supplemental indenture with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of such outstanding series of debt securities (including consents obtained in connection with a purchase of, or tender offer or exchange offer for, such series of debt securities) and, subject to specified exceptions, any past default or compliance with any provisions may be waived with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of such outstanding series of debt securities. However, without the consent of each holder of an outstanding debt security of such series affected thereby, no amendment may, among other things:

- reduce the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver;

- reduce the rate of or extend the stated time for payment of interest on any debt security;

- reduce the principal amount of, or extend the stated maturity of, any debt security;

- make any change that adversely affects the conversion rights, if any, of any debt security;

- make any debt security payable in money other than that stated in such debt security;

- impair the right of any holder to receive payment of principal (and premium, if any) and interest on, or any Additional Amounts payable with respect to, such holder's debt security on or after the due dates thereof or to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to such holder's debt security; or

- modify the foregoing amendment provisions or the provisions relating to waivers of past defaults, except to increase the percentage of the principal amount of the debt securities whose holders are required to consent to an amendment or waiver, or to provide that certain other provisions of the applicable Indenture may not be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected thereby.



The holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of any series of debt securities outstanding under either Indenture have the right to waive compliance by the Company with certain covenants in the applicable Indenture with respect to that series of debt securities.

Modifications and amendments of each Indenture may be made by the Company and the applicable trustee without the consent of any holder of debt securities issued thereunder to:

cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency contained in the Indenture;

provide for the assumption by a successor corporation, partnership, trust or limited liability company of the obligations of the Company under the Indenture;

provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities (provided that the uncertificated debt securities are issued in registered form for purposes of Section 163(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, or in a manner such that the uncertificated debt securities are described in Section 163(f)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code);

add guarantees with respect to the debt securities;

secure the debt securities;

add to the covenants of the Company for the benefit of the holders of the debt securities, or to surrender any right or power conferred upon the Company;

comply with any requirement of the SEC to effect the qualification of the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or

make any change that does not materially and adversely affect the rights of the holders of the debt securities.

The consent of the holders is not necessary under the Indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment.

Each Indenture provides that in determining whether the holders of the requisite principal amount of outstanding debt securities of a series have given any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent or waiver thereunder or whether a quorum is present at a meeting of holders of debt securities, (1) the principal amount of an original issue discount security that will be deemed to be outstanding will be the amount of the principal thereof that would be (or shall have been declared to be) due and payable as of the date of such determination upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, (2) the principal amount of a debt security denominated in a foreign currency or currencies that will be deemed outstanding will be the U.S. dollar equivalent, determined on the issue date for such debt security, of the principal amount (or, in the case of an original issue discount security, the U.S. dollar equivalent on the issue date of such debt security of the amount determined as provided in clause (1) above), (3) the principal amount of an indexed security that will be deemed outstanding will be the principal face amount of such indexed security on the issue date, unless otherwise provided with respect to such indexed security pursuant to the applicable Indenture, and (4) debt securities owned by the Company or any other obligor upon the debt securities or any affiliate of the Company or of such other obligor will be disregarded.

Each Indenture contains provisions for convening meetings of the holders of debt securities of a series. A meeting may be called by the trustee, by the Company, pursuant to a resolution adopted by its board of directors, or by the holders of not less than 10% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series, in any such case upon satisfaction of any conditions and upon notice given as provided in the applicable Indenture. Except for any consent that must be given by the holder of each debt security affected by certain modifications and amendments of the applicable Indenture, any resolution presented at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum is present may be adopted by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the

outstanding debt securities of that series. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except as referred to above, any resolution with respect to any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action that may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage, which is less than a majority, in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may be adopted at a meeting or adjourned meeting duly reconvened at which a quorum is present by the affirmative vote of the holders of such specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series. Any resolution passed or decision taken at any meeting of holders of debt securities of

any series duly held in accordance with the Indenture will be binding on all holders of debt securities of that series. The quorum at any meeting called to adopt a resolution, and at any reconvened meeting, will be persons holding or representing a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series, except that if any action is to be taken at such meeting with respect to a consent or waiver which may be given by the holders of not less than a specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series, the persons holding or representing such specified percentage in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series will constitute a quorum.

Notwithstanding the provisions described above, if any action is to be taken at a meeting of holders of debt securities of any series with respect to any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action that the applicable Indenture expressly provides may be made, given or taken by the holders of a specified percentage in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities affected thereby, or of the holders of such series and one or more additional series, (1) there shall be no minimum quorum requirement for such meeting and (2) the holders of the principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series that vote in favor of such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action shall be taken into account in determining whether such request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or other action has been made, given or taken under the applicable Indenture.

#### **Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

The Company may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities that have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and that either have become due and payable or will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the applicable trustee, in trust, funds in such currency or currencies in which such debt securities are payable in an amount sufficient to pay the entire indebtedness on such debt securities in respect of the principal (and premium, if any) and interest and Additional Amounts payable to the date of such deposit (if such debt securities have become due and payable) or to the stated maturity or date of redemption, as the case may be.

Each Indenture provides that, if the provisions of the relevant Article of such Indenture are made applicable to the debt securities of (or within) any series pursuant to such Indenture, the Company may elect either (1) to effect a

defeasance, in which case it will be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities (except for the obligation to pay Additional Amounts, if any, and the obligations to register the transfer or exchange of such debt securities, to replace temporary or mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain an office or agency in respect of such debt securities and to hold moneys for payment in trust), or (2) to effect a covenant defeasance, in which case it will be released from its obligations with respect to the covenants described under

Certain Covenants or, if provided pursuant to such Indenture, its obligations with respect to any other covenant, and any omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an Event of Default with respect to such debt securities. Such defeasance or covenant defeasance shall be effected upon the irrevocable deposit by the Company with the applicable trustee, in trust, of an amount, in such currency or currencies in which such debt securities are payable at their stated maturity, or Government Obligations (as described below), or both, applicable to such debt securities which through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt securities, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon, on the scheduled due dates therefor.

Such a trust may be established only if, among other things, the Company has delivered to the applicable trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in the applicable Indenture) to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred.



Each Indenture defines **Government Obligations** to mean securities which are (1) direct obligations of the United States of America or any government or governments which issued the foreign currency or currencies in which the debt securities of a particular series are payable, for the payment of which its full faith and credit is pledged, or (2) obligations of a person controlled or supervised by and acting as an agency or instrumentality of the United States of America or any such other government, the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed as a full faith and credit obligation by the United States of America or such other government, which, in either case, are not callable or redeemable at the option of the issuer thereof. Government Obligations will also include a depository receipt issued by a bank or trust company as custodian with respect to any such Government Obligation or a specific payment of interest on or principal of any such Government Obligation held by such custodian for the account of the holder of a depository receipt, except that (other than as required by law) such custodian is not authorized to make any deduction from the amount payable to the holder of such depository receipt from any amount received by the custodian in respect of the Government Obligation or the specific payment of interest on or principal of the Government Obligation evidenced by such depository receipt.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable supplemental indenture relating to any series of debt securities, if after the Company has deposited funds or Government Obligations to effect defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to debt securities of any series, (1) the holder of a debt security of such series is entitled to, and does, elect pursuant to the applicable Indenture or the terms of such debt security to receive payment in a currency other than that in which such deposit has been made in respect of such debt security, or (2) a Conversion Event (as described below) occurs in respect of the currency in which such deposit has been made, the indebtedness represented by such debt security and any coupons appertaining thereto shall be deemed to have been, and will be, fully discharged and satisfied through the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such debt security as they become due out of the proceeds yielded by converting the amount or other property so deposited in respect of such debt security into the currency in which such debt security becomes payable as a result of such election or Conversion Event based on the applicable market exchange rate. Each Indenture defines **Conversion Event** to mean the cessation of use of (a) a foreign currency other than the Euro both by the government of the country which issued such currency and for the settlement of transactions by a central bank or other public institutions of or within the international banking community, (b) the Euro both within the European Monetary System and for the settlement of transactions by public institutions of or within the European Community or (c) any currency for the purposes for which it was established. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, all payments of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on any debt security that is payable in a foreign currency that ceases to be used by its government of issuance shall be made in U.S. dollars. If the Company effects a covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of an Event of Default, the amount in such currency in which such debt securities are payable, and Government Obligations on deposit with the applicable trustee, will be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. The Company, however, would remain liable to make payment of such amounts due at the time of acceleration.

The applicable prospectus supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, permitting such defeasance or covenant defeasance, including any modifications to the provisions described above, with respect to the debt securities of or within a particular series.

### **Senior Debt Securities**

Payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on debt securities we issue under the Senior Debt Securities Indenture will rank equally with all of our unsecured and unsubordinated debt.



## **Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities**

To the extent provided in the Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture and any supplemental indenture, and as described in the prospectus supplement describing the applicable series of subordinated debt securities, the payment of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on any subordinated debt securities, including amounts payable on any redemption or repurchase, will be subordinated in right of payment and junior to senior indebtedness, which is defined below. If there is a distribution to creditors of the Company in a liquidation or dissolution of the Company, or in a bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or similar proceeding relating to the Company, the holders of senior indebtedness will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior indebtedness (or provision shall be made for such payment in cash) before any payments may be made on the subordinated debt securities. Because of this subordination, general creditors of the Company may recover more, ratably, than holders of subordinated debt securities in the event of a distribution of assets upon insolvency.

The supplemental indenture will set forth, and the applicable prospectus supplement will describe, the terms and conditions under which, if any, we will not be permitted to pay principal, premium, if any, or interest on the related subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of an event of default or other circumstances arising under or with respect to senior indebtedness.

The Indentures will place no limitation on the amount of senior indebtedness that we may incur. We expect to incur from time to time additional indebtedness constituting senior indebtedness, which may include indebtedness that is senior to the subordinated debt securities but subordinate to our other obligations.

The Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture defines senior indebtedness as the principal of, and premium, if any, interest, including any interest accruing after the commencement of any bankruptcy or similar proceeding, whether or not a claim for post-petition interest is allowed as a claim in the proceeding, and rent payable on or in connection with, and all fees, costs, expenses and other amounts accrued or due on or in connection with, Indebtedness of the Company, whether secured or unsecured, absolute or contingent, due or to become due, outstanding on the date of the indenture or thereafter created, incurred, assumed, guaranteed or in effect guaranteed by the Company, including all deferrals, renewals, extensions or refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, the foregoing. Senior indebtedness does not include:

indebtedness that expressly provides that such indebtedness (1) shall not be senior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities, (2) shall be equal or junior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities, or (3) shall be junior in right of payment to any of the Company's other indebtedness;

any indebtedness of the Company to any of its majority-owned subsidiaries, other than indebtedness to the Company's majority-owned subsidiaries arising by reason of guarantees by the Company of indebtedness of such subsidiary to a person that is not the Company's subsidiary; and

indebtedness for trade payables or the deferred purchase price of assets or services incurred in the ordinary course of business.

## **Paying Agents**

We may appoint one or more other financial institutions to act as our paying agents. We may add, replace or terminate paying agents from time to time. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent. We will specify in the prospectus supplement for the debt security the initial location of each paying agent for that debt security. We must notify the trustee of changes in the paying agents.





## **Notices**

Notices to be given to holders of debt securities will be sent by mail to the respective addresses of the holders as they appear in the trustee's records, and will be deemed given when mailed. Neither the failure to give any notice to a particular holder, nor any defect in a notice given to a particular holder, will affect the sufficiency of any notice given to another holder. Book-entry and other indirect owners should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive notices.

## **The Trustee**

We may appoint one or more institutions to act as trustees. We will identify trustees and provide additional information about trustees in a prospectus supplement.

## **Governing Law**

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

## DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

### General

Our certificate of incorporation provides that we may issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of the date of this prospectus, we had no outstanding preferred stock.

The following description of the preferred stock sets forth general terms and provisions of the preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The statements below describing the preferred stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws and any applicable certificates of designation to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation designating terms of a series of preferred stock. Because the board of directors has the power to establish the preferences and rights of the shares of any additional series of preferred stock, it may afford holders of any preferred stock preferences, powers and rights, including voting and dividend rights, senior to the rights of holders of the common stock, which could adversely affect the holders of the common stock and could discourage a takeover of us even if a change of control of our company would be beneficial to the interests of our stockholders.

### Terms

Our board of directors has the authority, subject to limitations prescribed by law and the Company's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, without further action by our stockholders, except as described below, to issue up to the authorized number of shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the voting powers, designations, preferences and the relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations and restrictions of each series, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, terms of redemption, liquidation preferences and the number of shares constituting any series.

Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred stock offered thereby for the specific terms thereof, including:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the number of shares of the preferred stock, the liquidation preference per share of the preferred stock and the offering price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment day(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to the preferred stock;

the date from which dividends on the preferred stock shall accumulate, if applicable;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provision for a sinking fund, if any, for the preferred stock;

the provision for redemption, if applicable, of the preferred stock;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which the preferred stock may or will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, our common stock or other securities, including the conversion price or manner of calculation thereof;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;

a discussion of U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock; and

any other specific material terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock, including any voting rights.

### **Voting Rights**

The DGCL provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of that preferred stock. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in the applicable certificate of designation.

### **Stockholder Liability**

Delaware law provides that no stockholder, including holders of preferred stock, shall be personally liable for our acts and obligations and that our funds and property shall be the only recourse for these acts or obligations.

### **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for any preferred stock that may be issued will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

As of the date of this prospectus, there are no outstanding warrants.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, debt securities, preferred stock or any combination of the foregoing securities. Warrants may be issued independently or together with our securities offered by any prospectus supplement. Series of warrants may be issued under a separate warrant agreement. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the warrants offered, including but not limited to the following:

the number of warrants offered;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies in which the prices of the warrants may be payable;

securities for which the warrants are exercisable;

whether the warrants will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of these securities;

the amount of securities purchasable upon exercise of each warrant and the price at which and the currency or currencies in which the securities may be purchased upon such exercise, and the events or conditions under which the amount of securities may be subject to adjustment;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

the circumstances, if any, which will cause the warrants to be deemed to be automatically exercised;

the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants, if any, that may be exercised at any one time;

any material risk factors relating to such warrants; and

any other material terms of such warrants.

Prior to the exercise of any warrants, holders of such warrants will not have any rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive payments of dividends, or the right to vote such underlying securities.

Prospective purchasers of warrants should be aware that special United States federal income tax, accounting and other considerations may be applicable to instruments such as warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe such considerations, to the extent they are material, as they apply generally to purchasers of such warrants.

## DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

We may, from time to time, issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities that may be offered under this prospectus, in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each

security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately at any time, or at any time before a specified date.

Any applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

the material terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any material provisions relating to the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units; and

any material provisions of the governing unit agreement that differ from those described above.

### **SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS**

Selling securityholders are persons or entities that, directly or indirectly, have acquired or will from time to time acquire, securities in various private or other transactions. Such selling securityholders may be parties to registration rights agreements with us, or we otherwise may have agreed or will agree to register their securities for resale. The purchasers of our securities, as well as their transferees, pledges, donees or successors, all of whom we refer to as selling securityholders, may from time to time offer and sell the securities pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the name of each of the selling securityholders and the number of shares of our common stock or other relevant securities beneficially owned by such selling securityholders that are covered by such prospectus supplement.

### **LEGAL MATTERS**

The legal validity of the securities offered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Hogan Lovells US LLP.

### **EXPERTS**

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, has audited our consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, as set forth in their reports, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement. Our consolidated financial statements and our management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 are incorporated by reference in reliance on McGladrey & Pullen, LLP's report, given on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.



**American Public Education, Inc.**

**Common Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Units**

**PROSPECTUS**

**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted.**

The date of this prospectus is May 10, 2011.

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**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.***

Securities and Exchange Commission filing fee	\$	*
Accounting fees and expenses		**
Legal fees and expenses		**
Printing fees		**
Miscellaneous		**
<b>Total</b>		<b>**</b>

\* Deferred in reliance on Rule 456(b) and 457(r).

\*\* These fees and expenses are calculated based on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and accordingly cannot be estimated at this time.

**Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers.***

*Delaware General Corporation Law.* Section 145(a) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the DGCL ) provides that a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that the person's conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the DGCL states that a corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which the person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Delaware Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the Delaware Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem

proper.

Section 145(c) of the DGCL provides that to the extent that a present or former director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person

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shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith.

Section 145(d) of the DGCL states that any indemnification under subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145 (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the present or former director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because the person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145. Such determination shall be made with respect to a person who is a director or officer at the time of such determination (1) by a majority vote of the directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, even though less than a quorum, (2) by a committee of such directors designated by majority vote of such directors, even though less than a quorum, (3) if there are no such directors, or if such directors so direct, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (4) by the stockholders.

Section 145(f) of the DGCL states that the indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, the other subsections of Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in such person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office.

Section 145(g) of the DGCL provides that a corporation shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of Section 145.

Section 145(j) of the DGCL states that the indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by, or granted pursuant to, Section 145 shall, unless otherwise provided when authorized or ratified, continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

*Fifth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation.* The registrant's fifth amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the registrant's directors will not be personally liable to the registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages resulting from a breach of their fiduciary duties as directors. However, nothing contained in such provision will eliminate or limit the liability of directors (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the registrant or its stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, (3) under Section 174 of the DGCL or (4) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

*Second Amended and Restated Bylaws.* The registrant's second amended and restated bylaws provide for the indemnification of the officers and directors of the registrant to the fullest extent permitted by the DGCL. The second amended and restated bylaws provide that each person who was or is made a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to, any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director or officer of the registrant shall be indemnified and held harmless by the registrant to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL against all expense, liability and loss, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees, incurred by such person in connection therewith, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be or not opposed to the best interests of the registrant and had no reasonable cause to believe that such person's conduct was unlawful.

*Indemnification Agreements.* The registrant's board of directors has adopted a form of indemnification agreement for the directors and officers of the registrant, which provides a contractual right in certain circumstances to indemnification for related expenses including, among other things, attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and settlement amounts incurred by any of these individuals in any action or proceeding arising as a result of such individual's relationship with the registrant, and the advancement of expenses for the same.

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*Insurance.* The registrant maintains directors and officers liability insurance, which covers directors and officers of the registrant against certain claims or liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties.

**Item 16. Exhibits.**

The following is a list of all exhibits filed as part of this registration statement on Form S-3.

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
3.1	Fifth Amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation of American Public Education, Inc.(1)
3.2	Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of American Public Education, Inc.(2)
4.1	Form of certificate representing the Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of American Public Education, Inc.(3)
4.2**	Form of Senior Debt Securities Indenture
4.3**	Form of Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture
4.4*	Form of Certificate Evidencing Senior Debt Securities
4.5*	Form of Certificate Evidencing Subordinated Debt Securities
4.6*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4.7*	Form of Warrant Agreement
4.8*	Form of Warrant Certificate
4.9*	Form of Unit Agreement
5.1**	Opinion of Hogan Lovells US LLP
12.1**	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1**	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
23.2**	Consent of Hogan Lovells US LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1**	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature pages of this registration statement)

(1) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 3.1 filed with the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 01-33810), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2007.

(2) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 3.2 filed with the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 01-33810), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2007.

(3) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 4.1 filed with the registrant's Current Pre-Effective Amendment No. 3 to Form S-1 (File No. 333-145185), filed with the Commission on October 26, 2007.

\* To be filed, if necessary, subsequent to the effectiveness of this registration statement as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K or other document to be incorporated by reference herein or to a post-effective amendment hereto, if applicable.

\*\* Filed herewith.

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any

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deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however,* that paragraphs (a)(i), (a)(ii) and (a)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser,

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:



(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

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(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(j) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Charles Town, State of West Virginia, on May 10, 2011.

### AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.

By: /s/ Harry T. Wilkins

Name: Harry T. Wilkins

Title: Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

## POWERS OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned officers and directors of American Public Education, Inc., hereby severally and individually constitute and appoint Wallace E. Boston, Jr. and Harry T. Wilkins, and each of them, the true and lawful attorneys and agents of each of us to execute in the name, place and stead of each of us (individually and in any capacity stated below) any and all amendments to this Registration Statement on Form S-3, and all instruments necessary or advisable in connection therewith and to file the same with the Securities and Exchange Commission, each of said attorneys and agents to have power to act with or without the other and to have full power and authority to do and perform in the name and on behalf of each of the undersigned every act whatsoever necessary or advisable to be done in the premises as fully and to all intents and purposes as any of the undersigned might or could do in person, and we hereby ratify and confirm our signatures as they may be signed by our said attorneys and agents and each of them to any and all such amendment and amendments.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement on Form S-3 has been signed on May 6, 2011 by the following persons in the capacities indicated.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
/s/ Wallace E. Boston, Jr. Wallace E. Boston, Jr.	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Harry T. Wilkins Harry T. Wilkins	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)
/s/ J. Christopher Everett J. Christopher Everett	Director
/s/ F. David Fowler F. David Fowler	Director

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/s/ Jean C. Halle

Director

Jean C. Halle

/s/ Barbara G. Fast

Director

Barbara G. Fast

/s/ Timothy J. Landon

Director

Timothy J. Landon

/s/ Timothy T. Weglicki

Director

Timothy T. Weglicki

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
3.1	Fifth Amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation of American Public Education, Inc.(1)
3.2	Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of American Public Education, Inc.(2)
4.1	Form of certificate representing the Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share, of American Public Education, Inc.(3)
4.2**	Form of Senior Debt Securities Indenture
4.3**	Form of Subordinated Debt Securities Indenture
4.4*	Form of Certificate Evidencing Senior Debt Securities
4.5*	Form of Certificate Evidencing Subordinated Debt Securities
4.6*	Form of Preferred Stock Certificate
4.7*	Form of Warrant Agreement
4.8*	Form of Warrant Certificate
4.9*	Form of Unit Agreement
5.1**	Opinion of Hogan Lovells US LLP
12.1**	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1**	Consent of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
23.2**	Consent of Hogan Lovells US LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1**	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature pages of this registration statement)

(1) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 3.1 filed with the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 01-33810), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2007.

(2) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 3.2 filed with the registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 01-33810), filed with the Commission on November 14, 2007.

(3) Incorporated by reference to exhibit 4.1 filed with the registrant's Current Pre-Effective Amendment No. 3 to Form S-1 (File No. 333-145185), filed with the Commission on October 26, 2007.

\* To be filed, if necessary, subsequent to the effectiveness of this registration statement as an exhibit to a Current Report on Form 8-K or other document to be incorporated by reference herein or to a post-effective amendment hereto, if applicable.

\*\* Filed herewith.